

Remarks:

In the March 19, 2009, Office Action, Claims 4-11, 14, 18, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Pike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,944,947). Claims 1-3, 13, 18, 24, and 28 were allowed (note that Claim 18 was both allowed and rejected). Claims 15 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 was indicated on the Summary page as being rejected, but with no basis provided in the Detailed Action. (Also, Claim 7, which was indicated as being rejected, had previously been cancelled.)

To clarify the March 19, 2009, Office Action, Applicants' undersigned attorney talked to the Examiner on May 8, 2009, and the Examiner clarified the Office Action by indicating that Claim 18 was in fact allowed and that Claim 12 should have been rejected in the Detailed Action under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Pike et al. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of clarifying the March 19, 2009, Office Action in the May 8, 2009, telephone conference.

Applicants have incorporated the limitations of allowable Claim 15 into independent Claim 9, upon which it formerly depended. By doing so, independent Claim 9 should now be allowable, as should dependent Claims 10-12, 14, 16, 26, and 27, which

all depend from independent Claim 9. The remaining rejected claims, namely Claims 4-6 and 8, have all been cancelled.

Thus, the case should be in proper condition for allowance under 37 C.F.R. Section 312.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claims 1-3, 9-14, 16, 18, 24, and 26-28 are patentable at this time. These claims remain pending following entry of this Amendment B, and are in condition for allowance at this time. As such, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment B and reconsideration of the claims, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner believe that the prosecution of the application could be expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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